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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Oswald SATZGER et al.

Group Art Unit: 3721

Serial No : 10/050,132

Examiner: Unknown

Filed : January 18, 2002

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Pursuant to the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 CFR 1.56 and in accordance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98, the following information is brought to the attention of the Examiner for consideration during the examination of the instant application:

Applicants submit herewith a copy of the German Search Report (in German) conducted in German Application No. 101 02 535.1, which is a counterpart of the instant application. In particular the German Examiner cited:

(1) DE 694 22 984 T2, which is cited as an "X" category document (i.e. indicating lack of novelty). In particular, the German Examiner indicated that Fig. 2 was relevant to claim 1 of the German Application;

(2) US 6,030,499 is a counterpart of DE 694 22 984 T2; and

(3) DE 92 05 636 U1, which is cited as an "Y" category document (i.e. indicating lack

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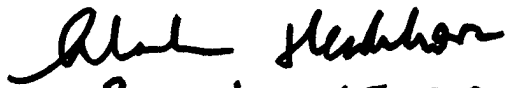
of inventive step). In particular, the German Examiner indicated that Fig. 5 was relevant to claim 1 of the German Application.

Copies of the above-listed documents (including the German Search Report) are enclosed as is a completed copy of the PTO-1449 Form listing these documents. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to consider these documents and to indicate such consideration by returning a signed and initialed copy of the PTO-1449 Form with the first official communication.

Applicants note that this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months from the filing date and before receiving a first action on the merits from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Accordingly, consideration of the enclosed documents is required under 37 C.F.R. 1.97(b)(1).

Should there be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below listed number.

Respectfully submitted,
Oswald SATZGER et al.


Reg. No. 45,294

Neil F. Greenblum
Reg. No. 28,394

April 15, 2002
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1941 Roland Clarke Place
Reston, VA 20191
(703) 716-1191

Form PTO-1449						U.S. Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office								Atty. Docket No. P21737							Serial No. 10/050,132																				
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use several sheets if necessary)																												Applicant Oswald SATZGER et al.													
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PATENT DOCUMENTS																																									
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